



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants Awarded** *Funds help local fire departments with wildland fire emergencies*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. – (Sept. 2, 2011)** – The Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) has awarded \$259,070 in grant funds to 78 rural fire departments from across the state through the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program. Rural fire departments are often the first line of defense in protecting communities from wildfire, and with more than 800 fire departments in the state (approximately 760 being volunteer fire departments) additional funds have provided much needed equipment.

VFA grant funds are used to purchase items specifically for fighting wildfires such as training materials, pumps, hoses, tanks, small fire suppression equipment and personal protective equipment such as Nomex®, fire shelters and gloves. The objectives of the VFA grant program include the following:

- organize, train, and equip fire departments in unprotected rural areas and rural communities;
- assist qualifying fire departments in saving lives and protecting property in unprotected or inadequately protected rural communities;
- prevent or reduce loss of life, protect financial investments, and enhance environmental quality to revitalize rural America;
- increase the opportunity for rural fire departments to acquire training and current information on fire prevention techniques.

The VFA grant recipients for 2011 include the following fire departments:

Anderson County F.D.	Grahn V.F.D.	Oldtown V.F.D.
Artemus F.D.	Harned Area V.F.D.	Owen County V.F.D.
Avawana F.D.	Haynes Knob F.D.	Payneville F.D.
Bardwell F.D.	Hiseville V.F.D.	Pleasureville V.F.D.
Baskett V.F.D.	Hitchins V.F.D.	Poole V.F.D.
Beaver Dam F.D.	Hurricane Creek F.D.	Rhodehia V.F.D.
Breeding Area F.D.	Irvington V.F.D.	Richardsville F.D.
Brodhead F.D.	Jenkins F.D.	Richland V.F.D.
Calloway County F.D.	Jonesville V.F.D.	Rineyville V.F.D.
Camp Dick F.D.	Keavy V.F.D.	Rockhouse V.F.D.
Campground V.F.D.	KY River Fire and Rescue	Rockport V.F.D.
Cedar Springs V.F.D. Station 2	La Center Rural F.D.	Route 377 V.F.D.
City of Benton F.D.	Leatherwood V.F.D.	Route 504 V.F.D.
City of Hazard F.D.	Letcher V.F.D.	Shelby Valley V.F.D.
Clay City F.D.	Lewisburg V.F.D.	Smith Mill V.F.D.
Corydon Civil Defense F.D.	Loretto F.D.	South Hopkins V.F.D.
Cromwell F.D.	Lowmansville V.F.D.	South Russell V.F.D.
Cunningham F.D.	McHenry F.D.	St. Charles V.F.D.
Dabney V.F.D.	McLean County F.D.	Stamping Ground V.F.D.
David Area V.F.D.	Meade County F.D.	Susie Fire Protection District
Dukes V.F.D.	Middle Creek V.F.D.	WR Castle F.D.
Dundee F.D.	Milburn F.D.	West McCracken F.D.
Earlington F.D.	Mortons Gap F.D.	White Plains F.D.
East Allen V.F.D.	New Liberty F.D.	Willisburg Fire and Rescue
Eminence F.D.	Niagara V.F.D.	Woodbine V.F.D.
Gordon V.F.D.	Northeast Nelson F.D.	Zoneton F.D.

Each year, wildfires destroy property and homes in Kentucky. In 2010, Kentucky's fire departments made nearly 8,000 wildland fire runs. As regions change from farmlands and forestlands as a result of urban development, wildfires pose an even

greater danger to people and their homes. These concerns are the basis for the VFA program which began more than a decade ago and continues to draw interest each year. Funding for the VFA program is provided by the USDA-Forest Service and administered by KDF. To be eligible for grant funding, rural fire departments must serve communities with 10,000 or less citizens.

For more information about the Volunteer Fire Assistance grants and program objectives, please contact KDF at 1-800-866-0555 or visit [www.forestry.ky.gov](http://www.forestry.ky.gov).

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